



## **Get Prepared!- Personal emergency planning resources for Knox County citizens**

**Have you ever thought “*What would I do if.....?*”** If you have, this is a great place to start answering some of those questions.

The Maine Emergency Management Agency, or MEMA, manages an informative website called “[Maine Prepares](http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/)”. Click on the logo at the top of this page or paste this link into your browser for more information:

<http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/> There you will find answers to many of your personal emergency planning questions.

- For county specific information during ongoing incidents, monitor local online news outlets such as [penbaypilot.com](http://penbaypilot.com) or [knox.villagesoup.com](http://knox.villagesoup.com) , a local radio or TV station or contact the Knox County Emergency Management Agency directly at 594-5155.
- Would you like to receive emergency messages including Amber Alerts and severe weather warnings directly to your wireless device or by e-mail? Sign up for the Maine Citizens alerting system. Visit [www.maine.gov/portal/CAS/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/portal/CAS/index.shtml) for more information and to register.
- Do you have special needs that would make it difficult for you to follow special instructions, such as evacuating during an emergency? If so please contact us to be added to our confidential registry.

**Sheltering in Knox County.** There is often confusion on what a “shelter” is and when you should go to one. Hopefully this will help answer your questions. Generally, there are two types:

**Protective Shelters** are a place where you can go to seek immediate protection from a storm such as a tornado. Your basement or a neighbor's basement makes a great emergency shelter. In most cases, a mobile home or RV do not provide adequate protective sheltering. And,

**Emergency or Evacuation Shelters** give you a safe place to go if you need to leave your home in an emergency. You might use one of these during a prolonged winter power outage, during flooding events or other disasters.

**What does "Shelter in Place" mean?** This is when an event such as a hazardous materials spill near your home or adverse weather makes it safer for you to stay in your home than it would be to leave it. For additional information on "[Sheltering in Place](#)" click on this link

[http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/prep\\_display.shtml?id=163646](http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/prep_display.shtml?id=163646)

If asked to shelter in place, follow instructions, act quickly and do not panic.

**Who runs Emergency shelters?** In times of need, communities and organizations such as local churches and the American Red Cross can come together to open an emergency shelter. These shelters are opened, operated and generally locally funded. If you or your group would like to be trained to open and manage a shelter, please contact us.

**Where are the local shelters?** In Knox County, we have worked with the American Red Cross to identify and arrange for "regional" emergency shelters when necessary. These regional shelters may be located at:

- **Camden Hills Regional High School** off Route 90 in Rockport <[Directions](#)>
- **South School** 30 Broadway in Rockland <[Directions](#)>
- **Union Elementary (old D R Gaul)** 1070 Heald Highway in Union <[Directions](#)>
- **Warren Community School** 117 Eastern Road in Warren <[Directions](#)>

**Important Note:** Generally, only one regional emergency shelter will open in Knox County at a time. Your local community may also open and operate a community shelter. To find out where a local shelter has been opened or is opening, dial "[211](#)" from any phone, tune into a local radio or TV station or follow the instructions of emergency personnel in your community.

**Can I take my Pets?** In most cases yes! Knox County has a dedicated animal team trained and equipped to operate a “pet shelter” adjacent to nearly any people shelter. A “pet friendly” shelter can only accommodate household pets and service animals.

**What should I take if I need to evacuate my home?** One of the best things you can organize is a personal or family “[Go-Bag](#)”. For a list of some suggested items to keep stocked in a your “[Go-Bag](#)” click the icon below.



While it may not be practical to keep your “[Go-Bag](#)” stocked with all of the recommended items, you should take these as a minimum:

- Cash and credit cards
- Season-appropriate clothing for each family member for several days
- Personal hygiene supplies appropriate for each family member
- Prescription medications and a list of them, by family member, name and strength
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Important records and documents preassembled in a waterproof container
- Portable radio, either battery or hand crank, extra batteries
- Flashlight, battery or hand crank, extra batteries
- Snacks and food not requiring refrigeration, can opener if needed
- Games, cards, crossword puzzles, entertainment items
- First Aid Kit and Guide
- Your pet(s) in pet carriers together with ownership documentation, immunization records, food, water, dishes, leashes (Note: Ensure your destination will accept pets!)

### **What can I do to help ?**

***Get involved-*** Participate in emergency planning in your community. Learn first aid and CPR. Join a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Learn how you can help others during an emergency. A trained volunteer is valuable!

***Get Informed-*** Ultimately, you must be actively involved in your own safety. Learn what to do and when to do it.

***Get Prepared!***

***For information on how you can help or to learn more about our other programs, contact the Knox County Emergency Management Agency at 594-5155***